Indian in Pakistan Jail

1852. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a person by name Mr. Kuldeep Kumar Yadav belonging to Ahmedabad had been lodged in Kot Lakhpat Jail in Pakistan for nearly 13 years, being falsely accused by Pakistan, of being an Indian spy and who is being physically tortured by Pakistan Jail Authorities; and

(b) if so, whether Government would assure of taking immediate necessary action in this regard, to render proper justice to Mr. Kuldeep Kumar Yadav?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Shri Kuldeep Kumar Yadav s/o Shri Nanak Chand R/o A-49, Gopal Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat is a convicted prisoner lodged at Kot Lakhpat Jail, Lahore, Pakistan since 22/23 June, 1994. He was sentenced in December, 1996 to 25 years imprisonment on charges of spying.

A consular team from the High Commission of India in Islamabad met him on 18 July, 2006. During meetings the High Commission officials had with Shri Yadav, he did not complain of having been subjected to torture.

Government have been consistently raising the Government of Pakistan the issue of regular consular access and repatriation of Indian prisoners in Pakistan jails. During the visit of the External Affairs Minister of Islamabad is January, 2007, a decision was taken to establish a Committee on Prisoners comprising four retired judges of the superior judiciary from each country to visit jails in the two countries and propose steps to ensure humane treatment and expeditious release of prisoners who have completed their prison terms.

Funds for Haj pilgrims

1853. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is funding Haj pilgrims;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last 3 years;

(c) whether this amount is sufficient;

(d) if so, the comments of Government thereon; and

(e) the steps being taken to increase the budget for Haj pilgrims in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (e) The Government provide subsidy to the arilines for air transportation for Haj pilgrimage. For efficient management and supervision of Haj arrangements, a large contingent of seasonal local staff, supervisors, data entry operators, drivers and messengers is appointed by the Consulate General of India, Jeddah on temporary basis. In addition, Doctors, Nurses and other para-medical staff, Coordinators, Assistant Haj Officers and Haj Assistants are sent from India on short-term deputation to Saudi Arabia. A hospital in Makkah and branch offices-cum-dispensaries in Makkah and Madina are set up during Haj period for Haj pilgrims. Medicines provided at these dispensaries and hospital are supplied from